Starting of Kanchenjunga Express from New Alipurduar

3253. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to start the Kanchenjunga Express from New Alipurduar instead of Cooch-Behar in the N.F. Railway for the convenience of the commuters of adjacent areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 2557/2558 Kanchanjunga Express scheduled to run between Guwahati and Sealdah via New Alipurduar and New Cooch-Behar is at present cancelled between New Jalpaiguri and Guwahati due to security restrictions imposed by the Government of Assam.

Charges for First Class and Air Conditioned Coaches

3254. SHRI SHANKARRAO KALE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the operation cost of First Class and Air Conditioned passenger coaches incurred by the railways is much more than what is charged as fare from passengers;

(b) if so, the loss sustained by the Railways on this account during the year 1990-91; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to charge fare equal to the cost incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The loss for the year 1990-91 will be available in July, 1992. However, the loss on First Class and Air Conditioned passenger coaches during the year 1989-90 is Rs. 151.97 crores and Rs 6.58 crores, respectively.

(c) Presently no such propsal is under consideration.

Ticketless travelling

3255. SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of surprise checks conducted against ticketless travel in Gorakhpur (NER) and Mugal sarai (NR) since Outober, 1991;

(b) the number of passengers apprehanedeD during these checks; and

(c) the amount recovered froM them as fine?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Total 460 checks were conducted during October 1991 to February 1992.

(b) 2,695 persons were apprehended.

(c) Rs. 1.10 lakhs were recovered as judicial fine.